

What is Claimed:

- 1 1. An apparatus for hanging a medical device, said apparatus
2 comprising:

3 a shaft;

4 a mounting portion coupled to an end portion of said shaft and
5 configured for mounting said apparatus for movement with respect to the medical
6 device; and

7 a hook portion positioned at an opposite end portion of said shaft and
8 configured for hanging said apparatus from a support;

9 wherein said shaft is configured to permit rotation of said hook portion
10 with respect to said mounting portion, thereby facilitating orientation of said hook
11 portion with respect to the support.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an axis of said mounting
2 portion is oriented perpendicular to an axis of said shaft.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of said shaft,
2 said mounting portion, and said hook portion is molded.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said shaft is generally
2 cylindrical in shape.

1 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said shaft has a cross-
2 sectional area smaller than that of said hook portion.

1 6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said shaft is flexible.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said hook portion is
2 positionable in a plane of an axis of said mounting portion.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein said shaft is sized to twist
2 sufficiently for rotation of said hook portion between said plane of said axis of said
3 mounting portion and a plane substantially perpendicular to said axis of said
4 mounting portion.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the medical device is a fluid
2 recovery system.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the medical device is a
2 thoracic cavity drainage system.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said mounting portion is
2 positioned at an end portion of said shaft.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said mounting portion is
2 spaced from an end portion of said shaft.

1 13. An assembly configured to be hung from a support, said
2 assembly comprising:

3 a medical device; and

4 at least one hanger comprising

5 a shaft;

6 a mounting portion coupled to an end portion of said shaft and
7 coupled for movement with respect to said medical device; and

8 a hook portion positioned at an opposite end portion of said
9 shaft and configured for hanging from the support;

10 wherein said shaft of said hanger is configured to permit rotation of
11 said hook portion with respect to said mounting portion of said hanger, thereby
12 facilitating orientation of said hook portion with respect to the support.

1 14. The assembly of claim 13 further comprising a handle coupled
2 to said medical device.

1 15. The assembly of claim 14, wherein said mounting portion pivots
2 with respect to said handle, thereby facilitating deployment or retraction of said
3 hanger with respect to said handle.

1 16. The assembly of claim 13, wherein a slot is defined within said
2 medical device to accommodate at least a portion of said hook portion when said
3 hanger is in a retracted position.

1 17. The assembly of claim 16, wherein said hanger is stowed in said
2 retracted position, thereby preventing unintentional hooking of said hook portion.

1 18. The assembly of claim 13, wherein said assembly further
2 comprises a plurality of hangers.

1 19. An assembly configured to be hung from a support, said
2 assembly comprising:

3 a medical device; and

4 a plurality of hangers, each comprising

5 a shaft;

6 a mounting portion coupled to an end portion of said shaft and
7 coupled for pivotal movement with respect to said medical device; and

8 a hook portion positioned at an opposite end portion of said
9 shaft and configured for hanging from the support;

10 wherein said hangers are pivotable with respect to said medical device,
11 thereby facilitating deployment of said hangers with respect to said medical device to
12 an extended position; and

13 wherein said hangers are positioned adjacent one another in said
14 extended position for hanging from a substantially common point on said support.

1 20. The assembly of claim 19, wherein said shaft is configured to
2 permit rotation of said hook portion with respect to said mounting portion, thereby
3 facilitating orientation of said hook portion with respect to the support.

1 21. The assembly of claim 19, further comprising a handle coupled
2 to said medical device.

1 22. The assembly of claim 21, wherein said mounting portion pivots
2 with respect to said handle.

1 23. An assembly configured to be hung from a support, said
2 assembly comprising:

3 a medical device;

4 a handle coupled to said medical device and configured for grasping
5 said medical device; and

6 at least one hanger comprising

7 a shaft;

8 a mounting portion coupled to an end portion of said shaft and
9 coupled to said handle; and

10 a hook portion positioned at an opposite end portion of said
11 shaft and configured for hanging from the support;

12 wherein said hanger is pivotable with respect to said handle, thereby
13 facilitating deployment and retraction of said hanger with respect to said handle.

1 24. In an assembly of a medical device and a plurality of hangers, a
2 method of hanging the medical device to a support, said method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 rotating at least a portion of a shaft of each hanger with respect to a
5 mounting portion of each hanger, thereby orienting a hook portion of each hanger
6 with respect to the support;

7 positioning the hook portions of the hangers adjacent one another;
8 and

9 engaging the hook portion of each hanger to a substantially common
10 point on the support, thereby hanging the medical device.

1 25. The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of pivoting
2 the mounting portion of each hanger with respect to the medical device, thereby
3 facilitating deployment and retraction of each hanger with respect to the medical
4 device.

1 26. The method of claim 24 wherein said rotating step comprises
2 twisting the shaft of each hanger.

1 27. The method of claim 24 wherein said rotating step comprises
2 rotating the shaft of each hanger sufficiently to move the hook portion between a

3 plane substantially perpendicular to an axis of the mounting portion and a plane
4 substantially parallel to the axis of the mounting portion.

1 28. In an assembly of a medical device and a plurality of hangers, a
2 method of hanging the medical device to a support, said method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 pivoting a mounting portion of each hanger with respect to the medical
5 device, thereby deploying a hook portion of each hanger with respect to the medical
6 device;

7 positioning the hook portions of the hangers adjacent one another;
8 and

9 engaging the hook portion of each hanger to a substantially common
10 point on the support, thereby hanging the medical device.

1 29. The method of claim 28, said engaging step comprising
2 engaging the hook portions of the hangers to a common aperture, thereby hanging
3 the medical device.

1 30. The method of claim 28 further comprising the step of rotating
2 at least a portion of the shaft of each hanger with respect to the mounting portion of
3 each hanger, thereby orienting the hook portion of each hanger with respect to the
4 support.

1 31. The method of claim 28 wherein said pivoting step comprises
2 pivoting the mounting portion of each hanger with respect to a handle of the medical
3 device.

1 32. An assembly configured to be hung from a support, said
2 assembly comprising:

3 a medical device;

4 a handle coupled to said medical device and configured for grasping
5 said medical device, said handle defining at least one aperture; and

6 at least one hanger comprising

7 a shaft;

8 a mounting portion coupled to an end portion of said shaft and
9 coupled to said handle; and

10 a hook portion positioned at an opposite end portion of said
11 shaft and configured for hanging from the support;

12 wherein said hanger is pivotable with respect to said handle, thereby
13 facilitating deployment and retraction of said hanger with respect to said handle; and

14 wherein at least a portion of said hanger extends into said aperture in
15 said handle.